

There are art classes that come down and use the Museum of Nebraska Art for classes. That is how it is tied into the state college system. It is not just a private use of money. We also have a lot of other statewide programs that flow in there. The fund drive that has taken place has been a fund drive, we have had contributions from Nebraska City down in the southeast part all the way up to Scottsbluff, from Omaha to Ogallala. It has been truly a statewide fund drive. The problem is that it is now or never for this state art collection that we have. We can box all this stuff up, I don't know which basements we are going to put it back in, but with the humidity and with the types of facilities and environment we have presently, we have got to do something with the artwork and, again, it is a critical need. It is not something that we were able to foresee early on this year that we could come in and make it a part of the budget process. It would be a one-time appropriation, and I don't think it sets a dangerous precedent for the expenditure of funds to specific individuals or to private foundations. This is truly for all of the citizens of the State of Nebraska and it merely carries out the the desires of the Legislature in maintaining an art collection. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, please.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, and members of the body, I have been to this facility in Kearney and, quite frankly, I enjoyed going through it, and also, quite frankly, I made a contribution to it just as I was leaving the building because I thought it was a worthwhile project. I think you will find that there is a tremendous amount of local support in the Kearney area for this project. The community out there, as well as Senator Kristensen said citizens of the State of Nebraska from all over the state are willing to support it in financial contributions, and I would suggest that it is not only a proper function for us to be involved in but the fact that it is an educational project run by an educational facility. One last thing, and I would suggest maybe it is time for Senator Chambers to put his glasses back on because on page 3 it is not Pork Baby, Senator Chambers, it is P-a-r-k, Park Baby. I know how it is, Senator Chambers, when you are getting a little older and your eyes are failing you, you do make those kind of errors, but it is park baby and it is a lot of darn good art in that building out there and I think is well worthy of our support, and I would wholeheartedly recommend the adoption of this proposal. Thank you.